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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Commissioner for Patents
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on 2 March, 2004.



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Dated: 2 March, 2004

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Serial No. : 09/429,174 Confirmation No. (None)

Applicants : Jung-Chih Huang, et al.

Filed : October 28, 1999

Title : PRE-BOOT SECURITY CONTROLLER

TC/A.U. : 2134

Examiner : Christopher J. Brown

Docket No. : 2139

Customer No.: 23320

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Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

This communication, which duplicates an identical response that was dispatched to the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") on March 1, 2004, is submitted in response to an Office Action dated January 14, 2004.

Appl. No. 09/429,174
Response Dated March 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action Dated January 14, 2004

Introductory Remarks

All rejections of claims set forth in the Office Action dated January 14, 2004, rely, either in whole or in part, upon combining:

1. United States Patent no. 4,604,708 entitled "Electronic Security System for Electronically Powered Devices" that issued on August 5, 1986, on a patent application filed by Gainer R. Lewis ("the Lewis patent"); with
2. United States Patent no. 5,251,304 entitled "Integrated Circuit Microcontroller With On-Chip Memory and External Bus Interface and Programmable Mechanism for Securing the Contents of On-Chip Memory" which issued on a patent application filed in the names of James M. Sibigtroth, Michael W. Rhoades, George G. Grimmer, Jr. and Susan W. Longwell ("the Sibigtroth, et al. patent").

As established by the accompanying "Declaration of Brian Oh" and as explained in greater detail below, combining the disclosure of the Sibigtroth, et al. patent with that of the Lewis patent:

1. does not increase the illusion of security provided by the invention disclosed in the Lewis patent; and
2. in one way of combining the disclosures, produces a combination which:
 - a. does not meet all the limitations expressly set forth in independent claim 1; and

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b. is inoperable for the intended purpose expressly
set forth in the Lewis patent.

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AMENDMENTS

There are no **Amendments to the Specification**.

There are no **Amendments to the Claims**.

There are no **Amendments to the Abstract of the Disclosure**.

There are no **Amendments to the Drawings**.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this Response.